المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

2 June 1992

Miss Clare Short, MP
House of Commons
London SW1A OAA

Dear Miss Short,

We remember well the courageous stand you took during the Gulf war and I write to you now concerning the suffering of the people of Iraq in the aftermath of that tragedy.

Now that Iraq is fully complying with all the UN resolutions passed concerning the Gulf war, many feel that it is time for the sanctions to be lifted in order to bring some relief to the suffering of the ordinary Iraqi people.

Many innocents - babies, children and old people especially - the most vulnerable of any population, have died as a result of the after effects of the war, the lack of adequate food, medicines and infrastructure to purify water, sanitation, etc. Figures are not easy to come by but all the aid organisations which have visited Iraq post-war testify to tragic suffering throughout the country on a horrendous scale. In the name of humanity, it is surely a crime to allow this situation to continue nearly one and a half years after the cessation of hostilities.

May I appeal to you now to use your influence as prominent member of the Opposition to lobby for the lifting of sanctions in an effort to alleviate the unnecessary further suffering of the innocent Iraqi people.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16, Grosvenor Crescent London SW1X 7EP Tel: 071-235 9832 Fax: 071-823 1590

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16, Grosvenor Crescent
LONDON SW1X 7EP

FROM CLARE SHORT MP

9 June, 1992

Dear Salem Azzam,

Thank you for your recent letter. I share your deep concern for the terrible suffering of the people of Iraq. I have written to Douglas Hurd MP, the responsible Minister and asked him to explain the continuance of British sanctions in light of Iraq's compliance with all UN resolutions. I will write to you once I receive a response from Mr Hurd.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Short

Clare Short.

المجلس الاسلامي
Islamic Council

10 June 1992

Miss Clare Short
House of Commons
London SW1A OAA

Dear Miss Short,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June and for the prompt action you have taken in writing to the Foreign Secretary.

I look forward to hearing from you again.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Salem Azzam

Salem Azzam
Secretary General

16, Grosvenor Crescent London SW1X 7EP Tel: 071-235 9832 Fax: 071-823 1590

I am returning Mr Azzam's letter. We have kept a copy for our files.

Douglas Hogg

17 June 1992

Clare Short MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

London SW1A 2AH

From The Minister of State

Dear Clare,

Thank you for your letter of 9 June to Douglas Hurd enclosing one from Mr Salem Azzam, Secretary General of the Islamic Council about the humanitarian situation in Iraq. I am replying as Minister responsible for the Middle East.

We too are concerned about the plight of the civilian population in Iraq. We will continue to monitor the situation carefully and to respond generously to humanitarian need throughout Iraq. We want to see a democratic and pluralistic system in Iraq which respects the basic human and political rights of all Iraq's people.

Mr Azzam mentions that Iraq is complying fully with all of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions. This is not the case. After six reviews the Security Council has been unable to conclude that conditions exist for lifting sanctions.

The Security Council has established a mechanism to enable Iraq to sell oil to finance the purchase of humanitarian supplies. This scheme also contains safeguards to ensure that supplies are distributed fairly throughout Iraq. Many of the difficulties which the Iraqi people are now facing would be overcome, if the regime agreed to cooperate in implementing this mechanism. We shall continue to press them to do so.

It is Saddam Hussain who bears the entire responsibility for suffering in Iraq. He has made it impossible to separate political and humanitarian aspects of this issue. He is cynically trying to exploit the suffering of the Iraqi people for propaganda purposes. We shall keep up the pressure on him until he implements Security Council Resolutions in full. We shall also continue to respond generously to humanitarian need in Iraq. But our principal aim must be to get Iraq to shoulder its own responsibilities.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Salem Azzam
Secretary General
Islamic Council
16, Grosvenor Crescent
London, SW1X 7EP

From Clare Short MP

23 June, 1992

Dear Salem Azzam,

I enclose a copy of the reply from Douglas Hurd, Minister of State, to your letter of 2 June. I am afraid it does not take us forward in any way.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Short

Clare Short.